

## Get Your Child Ready for Next School Year

As the 2009-2010 school year comes to a close, we can all breathe a sigh of relief and reflect on our accomplishments, while we set our sights on Aug. 23 - the first day of school. Below are some reminders to help you prepare for a successful start of the 2010-2011 school year.

### Fill out and submit your child's enrollment packet in June.

All students who have not done so should enroll **now** for the 2010-2011 school year.

- Please complete the **enrollment packet** we mailed home and turn it in to your current school. You can also get an enrollment packet from any DCPS school or download a copy online at **[dcps.dc.gov/enroll](http://dcps.dc.gov/enroll)**.
- All enrollment forms **must be submitted in person** with proof of residency. If you have questions, please call us at **202-478-5738**, or contact your child's school directly.

Parents and guardians are important partners in DCPS, and enrolling your child now ensures our schools are ready for your child.

### Make sure your child's immunizations are up to date.

As parents/guardians, we know that children can spread many illnesses at school. Immunizations protect children from the most dangerous diseases. That's why immunizations are required by law before children start school.

- **Please schedule a visit with your child's physician soon** if your child's immunizations are not up to date. Some immunizations require more than one dose with return visits.
- For a reminder of the **immunizations required by age**, please see the flyer in your enrollment packet.

If you have questions about DC's immunization requirements, talk with your child's physician or call the DC Department of Health Immunization Division at **202-576-7130**. All forms are in your enrollment packet, or can be found at **[dcps.dc.gov/enroll](http://dcps.dc.gov/enroll)**.

### Discuss the school behavior code with your child.

The DCPS student behavior code, **Chapter 25 DCMR**, is intended to support a safe learning environment and provides students, families and staff with a clear understanding of consequences for inappropriate school behavior. Students and parents should review the following as well as Chapter 25, available at **[dcps.dc.gov](http://dcps.dc.gov)** (click on "In the Classroom" and "Expectations of Students").

- DCPS encourages **classroom** and **school-based prevention** and **intervention strategies** in response to inappropriate behavior.
- If a student's behavior disrupts the school community's safe learning environment, schools can implement a range of **disciplinary responses** including in-school suspension, out-of-school suspension and expulsion.

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- Students are given full **due process** in the procedures outlined in Chapter 25.

For more information on the discipline code, call **202-299-2005**.

### If your child has special needs ...

- If your child's IEP determined that he/she is eligible for **transportation** during the 2010-2011 school year, please confirm with the **Special Education Coordinator** at your school that the transportation information has been submitted. Some information may have changed over the school year, so please make sure that your Special Education Coordinator has the most up-to-date **pick-up** and **drop-off** addresses and school location.
- Future mailings will include updates and more information. **If you have immediate concerns**, there will be staff available at your child's school this summer to assist you in ensuring he/she receives the proper supports and services. However, if you have difficulties and need additional help, the Office of Special Education has a **Critical Response Team (CRT)** to help parents. You can reach this team at **202-442-5400**.

### Complete a Free and Reduced Meal application today, and find a free breakfast and lunch site in the District this summer.

- The **2010-2011 Free and Reduced Meal (FARM)** application is now available online with DCPS enrollment forms at **dcps.dc.gov/enroll**. All students who attend the following schools should complete the application and return to their schools: Aiton, Brent, John Burroughs, H.D. Cooke, Eaton, Hardy, Hyde, Janney, Hearst, Lafayette, Langdon, Key, Horace Mann, Maury, Murch, Oyster-Adams, Bruce-Monroe, Powell, Peabody, Ross, Savoy, Malcolm X, Shepherd, Stoddert, Takoma, Thomson, Tyler, Walker Jones EC, West EC, Brookland EC, Marshall Education Center, Benjamin Banneker, Hugh M. Browne, Deal, Francis-Stevens, Stuart-Hobson, Cardozo, McKinley Tech, Roosevelt, Wilson, Woodson, School Without Walls, Ellington School of the Arts, Phelps, and Frederick Douglass.
- This summer, DCPS is serving **free healthy and nutritious breakfasts and lunches** at sites throughout the District from **June 28 through Aug. 6**. Meals are free to youths age 18 and younger. For an up-to-date listing of open sites, visit **www.osse.dc.gov**, click on "Wellness and Nutrition Services" and "DC Free Summer Meals Program." Menus can be found at **dcps.dc.gov** under "Beyond the Classroom."

### More information and materials coming this summer.

We will mail you **additional information** that will help you get ready for the first day of school in **mid-July** and **mid-August**.

Information specifically related to the first day of school will be available at **dcps.dc.gov/portal/site/DCPS/firstday**. Check for frequent updates.